

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. LAFALCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the majority leader, it is the disposition of the loyal minority to proceed as expeditiously as possible to join this bill with the PATRIOT bill we passed Friday and to go to conference with the Senate. It is my understanding that the Senate is probably going to adjourn as of about 2:00 o'clock this afternoon, and that we are going to adjourn about 4:00 o'clock.

I want the majority leader to know that if it is possible, we would like to come back with a conference report today, before 2:00 in the Senate, before 4:00 today, so that we could send the bill to President Bush for his signature today. We are ready to do anything. I know there are difficulties because some Senate offices have been quarantined. If it is necessary, we could meet on the House side. The conferees, if necessary, could be appointed immediately. We are willing to work with the gentleman in a most expeditious manner.

□ 1130

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LAFALCE. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman.

Let me take this moment if I may, to say that what was agreed to this morning by the Speaker and the minority leader and myself is we had certain work we could get done today and we thought we needed to get done today, and we would do that work and then adjourn for the week. We are progressing nicely on this.

I think it was a clear anticipation on the part of all three of us that should this conferencing of these two very important bills get done that expeditiously and be available to us at a reasonable time, we would be happy to take it and try to move it. So I would encourage Members to go to work on that.

In the meantime, Members should be advised that the basic ground rules are we will do the additional work that is available to us. When that work is completed, we will adjourn the House. We will then not reconvene the House until Tuesday. The exact time of reconvening will be announced later in the day. Between that adjournment today and Tuesday, we ask on behalf of the research team that will survey our work areas that Members go ahead and give their staffs the couple of days off and give that space over, make it available for this research, so we can establish the condition of the properties, not only in terms of securing their current safety, but establishing a base from which we can evaluate any future changes in these circumstances.

FURTHER LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, would the leader give us some indication as to why we would adjourn after 3 o'clock? If there is a risk of possible exposure by staying around, then I would ask the leader why is it we are staying in for another 3 hours and continuing to possibly expose employees of this building?

There is a line that is about 100 long around the Physician's Office right now waiting to be tested. It seems to me we have responsibility at this time to know what the facts are and to be able to operate in a way that is consistent with whatever clinical judgment the Physician's Office gives us.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, again, during our discussions earlier this morning between the minority leader, the Speaker and myself with the House Physician, Dr. Eisold, it was clear that we did not feel, according to the doctor's advice, that anyone was in imminent danger at this moment, and that there were Members from some offices, particularly from the other side of the building, that were taking these precautionary screening tests and it was considered advised.

On the House side at this time there was seen to be no imminent danger, but as a matter of prudence and in the interests of what I would call the research protocol of establishing a clearly defined base from which to proceed, it was advised that when we complete our business today, that we surrender the properties for the purposes of that sweep and that establishment.

There has been and is no announced time by which we would complete our work because that would depend, of course, on the flow of the work. But we believe Members all appreciate the seriousness of the situation.

We see the work is going expeditiously on the floor. As we return to that floor and complete that work, then I would advise the gentleman to have your staff complete their work and depart the properties. I think there is no reason to be concerned about having to rush out of here because the actual research, sweeping, will begin in the morning, and we will have given then these people the opportunity to access all our facilities and do this job properly.

So I would encourage Members not to feel a sense of anxiety or concern about any of their folks being in immediate danger. If any have any sense of concern, they might want to take their less critical personnel and encourage them to leave early. I do not think that is necessary, but I think at this

point it is well within the sense of discretion of the individual Member and their office.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 1438) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2002 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 1438

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002".

SEC. 2. ORGANIZATION OF ACT INTO DIVISIONS; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) DIVISIONS.—This Act is organized into three divisions as follows:

(1) Division A—Department of Defense Authorizations.

(2) Division B—Military Construction Authorizations.

(3) Division C—Department of Energy National Security Authorizations and Other Authorizations.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Organization of Act into divisions; table of contents.

Sec. 3. Congressional defense committees defined.

Sec. 4. Applicability of report of Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.

DIVISION A—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZATIONS

TITLE I—PROCUREMENT

Subtitle A—Authorization of Appropriations

Sec. 101. Army.

Sec. 102. Navy and Marine Corps.

Sec. 103. Air Force.

Sec. 104. Defense-wide activities.

Sec. 105. Defense Inspector General.

Sec. 106. Chemical agents and munitions destruction, Defense.

Sec. 107. Defense health programs.

Subtitle B—Army Programs

(Reserved)

Subtitle C—Navy Programs

Sec. 121. Virginia class submarine program.

Sec. 122. Multiyear procurement authority for F/A-18E/F aircraft engines.

Sec. 123. V-22 Osprey aircraft program.

Sec. 124. Additional matter relating to V-22 Osprey aircraft.

Subtitle D—Air Force Programs

Sec. 131. Multiyear procurement authority for C-17 aircraft.